



Weekend Preview

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RELEASE #21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DECEMBER 14, 2006

RIVER HAWKS VISIT A PAIR OF ECACHL FOES

Maine hosts Mercyhurst in Portland; UVM treks to St. Lawrence

While most Hockey East teams are preparing for the holiday season, UMass-Lowell, Maine and Vermont will be engaged in non-conference battles. The River Hawks are pulling double duty, facing off against a pair of ECACHL foes on the road. The River Hawks travel to Union on Friday to square off with Dutchmen before trekking north on I-87 to Troy for Saturday's game at Rensselaer. The young UML squad reeled off a five-game unbeaten streak earlier in the season, but struggled entering the heart of its league schedule before knotting up St. Lawrence in dramatic fashion last Sunday.

In Sunday's 3-3 overtime draw, River Hawk freshman defenseman Barry Goers (Ivyland, PA) buried the game-tying goal, his first career tally, and was named Hockey East Rookie of the Week for his efforts. On the offensive end, captain Jason Tejchma (Muskegon, MI) has assumed much of the offensive workload this season as one of the few remaining veterans. He has quietly put together an impressive senior campaign, notching 15 points already as he closes in on 100 for his career. It appears some of that luster from SID Jonathan Albert's Stanley Cup ring – he earned it as an intern with the Carolina Hurricanes last season – is starting to rub off on the UMass Lowell players.

Coach Tim Whitehead will lead his Black Bears on their annual trip to Portland for a

home game against Atlantic Hockey foe Mercyhurst on Saturday at the Cumberland County Civic Center.

Last weekend at Matthews Arena in Boston, Maine took down Northeastern by a 7-1 margin, thanks to a hat trick from reigning Hockey East Player of the Week Josh Soares (Hamilton, ON) and another solid outing from Ben Bishop (Des Peres, MO), who turned aside 21 Husky shots. Maine is 2-0-0 all-time against the Lakers, and the Bears have never given up a goal to Mercyhurst, winning 5-0 and 7-0 on consecutive nights in 2002. All Hannaford Hockey East Kids' Club members are invited to join Bananas, the Black Bears mascot, for a pre-game photo session and to stay after the game for an autograph session with select Maine players. Maine will also host a "Skate with the Bears" program, featuring the players, at the civic center following morning practice from noon to 1:30 Saturday afternoon.

The Catamounts will take a short bus ride around Lake Champlain for a skirmish with St. Lawrence in Canton, NY on Saturday. The meeting will mark the 80th time the schools have met on ice, as Vermont has faced the Saints more than any other team in its history. The 13th-ranked Vermont squad has not played an official game in nearly two weeks, though they did win an exhibition tilt last Saturday, dismantling the USA Under-18 squad,

7-1. Coach Kevin Sneddon's players can only hope that their coach will be able to focus on the game and not look ahead to his culinary debut next week. Sneddon has been chosen as the first "Celebrity Chef" for the inaugural "Celebrity Chef Night at the Sheraton," and will put his skills on display on Dec. 20 at the Sheraton Hotel in Burlington.

Our Intriguing Stat of the Week also comes via Burlington, where Vermont SID Chris Wojcik informs us of sophomore Dean Strong's (Mississauga, ON) MVP credentials. Vermont is 21-4-3 over the last two seasons when Strong records at least one point through the first 53 games of his career. Conversely, UVM is 6-15-4 in games where Strong does not record at least one point.

RECENT RESULTS

Tuesday, December 5

at Merrimack 3, Massachusetts 0 *

Wednesday, December 6

New Hampshire 4, at UMass Lowell 2 *
 at Maine 3, New Brunswick 2 OT (exh.)

Friday, December 8

at Massachusetts 2, Boston College 1 *
 at Boston University 4, Providence 2 *
 at New Hampshire 2, St. Lawrence 0

Saturday, December 9

at Boston College 5, Massachusetts 2 *
 Maine 7, at Northeastern 1 *
 at Vermont 7, U.S. U-18 Team 1 (exh.) #

Sunday, December 10

at UMass Lowell 3, St. Lawrence 3 OT

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, December 15

UMass Lowell at Union

Saturday, December 16

Maine vs. Mercyhurst (at Portland, ME) #
 UMass Lowell at Rensselaer
 Vermont at St. Lawrence

* Hockey East game

Hannaford/Kraft Kids' Club event
 Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals	Goals Against
New Hampshire	12	10	1	1	21	13-2-1	70	31
Vermont	9	6	2	1	13	9-5-1	39	25
Boston College	10	6	3	1	13	9-5-1	42	37
Boston University	11	4	3	4	12	6-3-5	32	26
Maine	9	5	3	1	11	10-3-1	56	29
Massachusetts	10	5	4	1	11	8-5-2	42	36
Providence	11	3	7	1	7	4-11-1	33	52
UMass Lowell	10	2	6	2	6	3-8-4	35	46
Northeastern	12	2	8	2	6	4-9-2	37	46
Merrimack	10	2	8	0	4	2-12-1	18	53